United Nations A/60/324

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 August 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 73 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

The issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/7 of 14 April 2005, entitled "Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territory, including East Jerusalem", paragraph 4 of which reads as follows:

> "*The Commission on Human Rights*,
>
> "
>
> "4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints owing to denial of access by Israel to hospitals, with a view to ending this inhumane Israeli practice, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session and the Commission at its sixty-second session;"

2. On 21 July 2005, the Secretary-General addressed notes verbales to the Permanent Mission of Israel and to the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva, in which he indicated that he would appreciate receiving any information pertaining to the implementation of the above resolution. No replies had been received at the time of preparation of this report.

3. In addition, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) addressed letters dated 21 July 2005 to the following United Nations entities and specialized agencies represented in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process (UNSCO), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Relief and Works

* A/60/150.

** This report is delayed in order to cover as much updated information as possible.

05-47861 (E) 150905

Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

4. Information was received from UNFPA, UNRWA and WHO in the course of August 2005. WHO quoted statistics from the Palestinian Ministry of Health indicating that 61 women had given birth at checkpoints between September 2000 and December 2004 and 36 of their babies died as a result. A breakdown of these figures shows that in 2000-2001, 31 pregnant women delivered at checkpoints and 17 of the babies died; in 2002, 16 women gave birth in similar conditions and 11 babies died; in 2003 and 2004, the numbers decreased: 8 and 6 women gave birth at checkpoints and 3 and 5 of the babies died, respectively.

5. According to other statistics provided by UNRWA, not yet complete for 2005, in the Gaza Strip, out of eight pregnant women transported to hospital, one woman gave birth inside the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulance while waiting at a checkpoint. Another woman, suffering from problems in her six-month pregnancy, aborted inside a PRCS ambulance, as she was held up for one hour at a checkpoint before being allowed to proceed.

6. According to the same source of information, 15 pregnant women in 2004 and 8 others in 2005 were delayed at checkpoints in the Gaza Strip while being transported to hospital by PRCS ambulance. These delays ranged from 1 to 2 ½ hours and increased during the evacuation of emergency cases from closed areas such as Seafa or Mahata; such patients were first brought by ambulance to the checkpoints, where they were transferred to a second ambulance on the other side. It was reported that prior coordination with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) was necessary when these transfers occurred after crossing hours.

7. For its part, UNFPA stated that "as a result of increased security procedures at checkpoints and the construction of the Separation Barrier, access of the Palestinian people to hospitals and medical facilities had been significantly impaired. Since 2001, UNFPA had recorded more than 70 cases of women in labour who had been delayed at checkpoints, which resulted in unattended and risky roadside births, causing maternal as well as newborn deaths".

8. The Palestinian Ministry of Health registered an increase of 7.9 per cent in home deliveries in the West Bank (against 0.5 per cent in the Gaza Strip) for 2005, indicating that Palestinian women preferred to give birth at home, without taking the risk of being subjected to potentially hazardous delays at checkpoints. This was also confirmed by UNFPA.

9. Several testimonies of Palestinian pregnant women who were allegedly held at checkpoints by Israeli military were brought to the attention of OHCHR. One such testimony concerned the death of a baby girl at a checkpoint close to Salem village, Nablus Governorate, in August 2003, after her mother gave birth with the assistance of the father, who had to cut the umbilical cord himself with a stone, as both of them were waiting for a second ambulance on the other side of the checkpoint to take them to the hospital.

10. It was also reported that although ambulances were allowed to transport patients through checkpoints during curfews, on the basis of advance coordination with IDF, delays often occurred and ambulances were forced to use secondary roads.

When ambulances were not allowed to go through checkpoints, pregnant women had to be transferred from one ambulance to another on the other side.

11. Several sources indicated that many pregnant women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories feared that they would not be able to reach a hospital in time to give birth. The problem was more acute in rural areas, especially for those women who lived in villages cut off by checkpoints from the cities where the hospitals were located. The drive to a hospital could take several hours, even if the distance was only a few kilometres. Such journeys were impracticable at night, during curfews or when there were military incursions. Additional information received referred to more than 30 per cent of births taking place at home, increasing the risk of complications and the subsequent death of mothers or infants. A growing number of Palestinian women were requesting Caesarean deliveries as a result of psychological apprehension and the fear of not receiving adequate medical care.

12. OHCHR and its Office in Palestine will continue to compile information regarding the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints, in cooperation with the agencies represented in the United Nations Country Team.

United Nations A/60/325

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 73 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Human rights and mass exoduses

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In his reform report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", the Secretary-General identified the nexus between human rights, security and development. This interconnection is especially clear in the context of mass exoduses, where human rights problems often precede deteriorating security situations, which in turn lead to the mass displacement of persons who become refugees or remain internally displaced, at particular risk of further human rights violations. After a situation of mass exodus comes to an end, the challenge is to create security and development conditions conducive to return and durable reintegration. The Secretary-General proposed a number of reforms which, in particular, would enhance the capacity of the United Nations to respond promptly and comprehensively to situations of mass exodus, whether arising from armed conflict or from massive natural disasters like the tsunamis of 4 December 2004.

Monitoring is necessary in order to devise appropriate protection strategies. This takes place both at the national level through various actors, including national human rights institutions, and internationally through the Commission on Human Rights, its special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies. These bodies have developed expertise in detecting patterns of human rights violations, especially racial and ethnic discrimination, that are common precursors to situations of pervasive violence and, in the worst case, genocide, and thus serve as an early warning mechanism to help prevent mass exodus.

* A/60/150.

05-47867 (E) 200905

Internally displaced persons form some two thirds of the victims of mass exoduses. Specific steps have been taken to address the situation of these persons. Following the adoption of Commission resolution 2004/55, a Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons was appointed, which has brought a renewed focus to the human rights of these persons.

An Internal Displacement Division was established within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. With these actions, the United Nations system is endeavouring to respond in a more integrated manner to situations of internal displacement with clearer responsibilities and accountabilities of the various bodies that will complement the work being done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

This report is submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 58/169.

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5. Against this background, the Secretary-General set out the challenges facing the international community in its response. He noted that from the Indian Ocean tsunami to the crises in Darfur and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, recent months had shown the ever-growing range and scale of demands being placed on the international humanitarian response system. With leadership and coordination from the United Nations, the system that comprised the humanitarian community of agencies and non-governmental organizations had been performing reasonably well, under the circumstances. There was less overlap between agencies and a more effective coordination between non-governmental and intergovernmental actors on the ground. He noted that the system had been able to provide massive relief to all tsunami-affected communities in the Indian Ocean in the course of a few weeks. Yet at the same time, assistance to displaced people in Darfur was falling well short of what had been pledged, while major crises remained significantly underfunded.

6. To achieve more predictable humanitarian responses in all emergencies, the Secretary-General recommended three points for rapid progress. First, the humanitarian system needed to have a more predictable response capacity in areas where there too often were gaps, ranging from the provision of water and sanitation to shelter and camp management. When crises were already under way there was a need to operate quickly and flexibly. This was particularly the case in complex emergencies, during which humanitarian requirements were linked to the dynamics of conflict and circumstances could change rapidly. In general, it was the relevant United Nations country team, led by the humanitarian coordinator, which was best placed to identify the opportunities and constraints. There remained a clear need to strengthen field coordination structures, notably by better preparing and equipping United Nations country teams, strengthening the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator and ensuring that sufficient and flexible resources were immediately available to support these field structures.

7. Second, predictable funding was required to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, building on the humanitarian community's work with the donor community and more systematically engaging with new donor Governments and the private sector. Ensuring consistent and timely responses to crises required both that pledges be rapidly converted into tangible resources and that more predictable and flexible funding be made available for humanitarian operations, particularly in the initial emergency phases.

8. Third, predictable rights of access and guaranteed security were required for United Nations humanitarian workers and operations in the field.

9. The Secretary-General observed that special attention was due to the growing problem of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Unlike refugees, who had crossed an international border, those displaced within their own countries by violence and war were not protected by established minimum standards. Yet this acutely vulnerable group of some 25 million persons was twice as large as the estimated number of refugees. He thus urged Member States to accept the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2) prepared by his Representative on internally displaced persons as the basic international norm for the protection of such persons, and to commit themselves to promote the adoption of the Principles through national legislation. He noted that unlike refugees, who were looked after by UNHCR, internally displaced persons and their needs often fell between different humanitarian mandates. Recent steps had been taken to ensure that agencies

provided assistance to such groups within their respective areas of competence, on a collaborative basis, though further efforts were needed.

10. This analysis sets out a comprehensive framework for understanding the scope and interlinkage of issues giving rise to mass exoduses and the human rights violations that occur in their wake. It also provides a clear set of recommendations for future action by the international community, including the United Nations system and civil society groups involved in humanitarian issues.

11. The assessments of UNHCR bear out the Secretary-General's concerns. The total number of persons of concern to UNHCR at the end of 2004 amounted to 19.2 million persons, consisting of 9.2 million refugees, 840,000 asylum-seekers, 1.5 million returned refugees, 5.4 million IDPs, 148,000 returned IDPs and 2 million various others of concern. The significant increase compared to the numbers at the beginning of the year reflects primarily two specific categories. Firstly, a new estimate of the number of internally displaced persons in Colombia raised the previous calculation of the number of persons of concern by over 430,000. Secondly, several new groups of stateless persons who had not previously been brought to the attention of the Office's statistical reporting unit were included in the final report on 2004. These total figures also reflect new influxes as well as repatriations.

12. In terms of repatriation, according to UNHCR, during the 18 months to mid-2005 significant numbers of refugees were able to return to their countries of origin, in particular to Afghanistan and several African countries. More specifically, in line with repatriation movements during earlier years, the largest number of refugees returned to Afghanistan from the Islamic Republic of Iran (515,000) and from Pakistan (424,500). Large-scale refugee returns also took place to Iraq (194,000), mainly from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some 90,000 refugees returned to Burundi, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania, and over 80,000 Angolans returned from Zambia (46,500) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (34,000). Other significant voluntary movements concerned refugees returning to Liberia (56,900), Sierra Leone (26,300), Somalia (18,100), Rwanda (14,100), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13,800) and Sri Lanka (10,000).

13. Despite these developments, continuing conflict and human rights abuses around the world have prompted new or renewed flight in other areas. According to UNHCR, during 2004, more than 232,000 refugees fled their country as part of a number of mass outflows which, in some cases, created new large-scale emergencies. For example, the Janjaweed militia attacks on civilian populations in the Darfur region of the Sudan caused thousands of people to take refuge in Chad and many thousands more to become internally displaced. Eleven asylum countries reported the arrival of more than 1,000 prima facie refugees. The main refugee outflows concerned Sudanese refugees fleeing to Chad (130,000), Uganda (14,000) and Kenya (2,300). New outflows of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were also reported into Burundi (20,700), Rwanda (11,300), Zambia (4,300) and Uganda (1,600). There were significant new movements of refugees from Somalia into Yemen (16,600) and into Kenya (2,400), from Iraq into the Syrian Arab Republic (12,000) and from Côte d'Ivoire into Liberia (5,500).

14. In line with the mainstreaming of the six goals and related objectives of the Agenda for Protection, UNHCR protection activities have focused on strengthening the implementation of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the

Status of Refugees, protecting refugees within broader migration movements, sharing burdens and responsibilities more equitably and building capacities to receive and protect refugees, addressing security-related concerns more effectively, redoubling the search for durable solutions and meeting the protection needs of refugee women and children.

15. In 2004, the challenges of ensuring access to protection, making major voluntary repatriation movements sustainable and promoting the resolution of protracted refugee situations persisted. Minimum survival needs of refugees were not always met, nor were refugees necessarily safe in countries of asylum, as demonstrated by the August 2004 attack on Gatumba transit centre in Burundi, in which 152 Congolese refugees were killed and more than 100 injured. Such human rights challenges to persons of concern were addressed when UNHCR relocated camps away from volatile border situations, as was the case with Colombian refugees in Panama and Sudanese refugees in Chad. In other situations, UNHCR was in a position to negotiate a "security package" with authorities in order to stabilize the area, as occurred in Sierra Leone.

16. Partnerships are essential for UNHCR to effectively conduct its mandate. In this context it should be mentioned that collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat was strengthened, especially in areas where the Department had a clear mandate to protect refugees, such as in Liberia or Burundi. Moreover, the Convention Plus initiative has continued to engage with States and other partners of UNHCR to build stronger commitments to resolve refugee situations through enhanced responsibility and burden-sharing.

III. Monitoring the human rights of persons in mass exodus

17. The four previous reports to the General Assembly on human rights and mass exoduses (A/52/494, A/54/360, A/56/334 and A/58/186) demonstrated the profound connection between human rights and mass exodus and forced displacement. Human rights violations are most often the root as well as immediate cause of mass exodus. Displaced people are also a category of most vulnerable persons and are often in urgent need of protection and assistance. The protection of uprooted people is often problematic, as mass exoduses normally occur in situations of crisis and conflict when national authorities are either unable or unwilling to discharge their responsibility to protect their populations, even at the most basic level.

18. Human rights are also a central element when conditions in the place of origin change and voluntary return and reintegration become a realistic option for the displaced. Assessing the human rights situation in the place of origin is crucial in assisting the displaced to make an informed choice to return home voluntarily. Once the displaced have returned, it is essential that the human rights situation be closely monitored and not be allowed to deteriorate, as that would jeopardize the sustainability of return. Effective and efficient national human rights protection mechanisms are required for this task. For some people, return will never be a realistic option, as it is unlikely that their rights can be protected in their places of origin, and other durable solutions, such as resettlement to other areas or local integration in areas of displacement, have to be identified.

19. At each of these stages, persons in mass exodus have specific human rights entitlements under international law, arising from a variety of sources. In a State where exodus and displacement are taking place, all persons within the jurisdiction of that State are entitled to protection under the international human rights obligations applicable to that State, whether expressed through the international human rights treaties adhered to by the State or through the generally binding norms imposed by customary international law. For the most part, it matters little whether the persons in or affected by mass exodus are citizens of that State, for with the exception of a few rights such as the political rights to vote and take part in public affairs, human rights extend to everyone. If persons in exodus cross an international boundary and become subject to the jurisdiction of another State, the human rights obligations of that State come into play. Additionally, other international instruments such as the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees may at that point be applicable.

20. Monitoring of the practical enjoyment of human rights becomes extremely important in the context of mass exoduses. Often, the national mechanisms of the State concerned are unable to discharge their primary responsibility for monitoring. As a result, the United Nations agencies with a protection mandate assume that role. In recent years and in a variety of circumstances, OHCHR has deployed monitors and facilitators to assess the enjoyment of human rights by persons, inter alia in situations of mass exodus or displacement; activities of human rights components of missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as of UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have also been crucial.

21. At the international level, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights play equally important roles in monitoring and assessing the human rights dimensions of situations of mass exodus in States where such movements take place or which are affected by such movements. In this respect, briefings to human rights treaty bodies by, in particular, UNHCR and UNICEF have been key in raising human rights issues affecting persons in mass exodus, sensitizing the treaty bodies to the particular needs of such persons and providing an actual basis for constructive dialogue with States parties to the respective treaties on such situations. Likewise, the special procedures' missions and subsequent reporting bring an independent assessment of the situation to various forums within the United Nations. Alongside the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, whose thematic mandates consistently implicate victims of mass exodus, and other special procedures, both thematic and country-oriented, have often raised issues of the human rights of victims of mass exoduses in their work.

22. The well-established cooperation between UNHCR and the various parts of the United Nations human rights machinery is firmly embedded in an understanding of the multifaceted linkages between refugee issues and human rights and the perception that the refugee experience, at every stage, is affected by the degree of respect by States for human rights and fundamental freedom. Increasingly, assisted by important contributions from the United Nations system, human rights treaty bodies have included in their concluding comments or observations issues of concern regarding the human rights of persons in situations of mass exodus and displacement, and have made recommendations to the States parties in question for

bringing violations of human rights to an end, providing appropriate remedies and constructing an enabling institutional environment to ensure that such violations will not recur.

23. Human rights treaty bodies have also advanced their understanding of the situation of persons in mass exodus and displacement as being one of particular vulnerability, with corresponding needs and sensitivities that may often differ from those of other rights holders. At the same time, human rights treaty bodies have worked to have persons in mass exodus recognized within the overall framework of the rights established in the treaties. Following a thematic debate on the issue, to which United Nations agencies including UNHCR contributed, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) adopted general comment No. 30 (2004) on the rights of non-citizens. The general comment recalled the Durban Declaration in which the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance recognized that xenophobia against, inter alia, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers constituted one of the main sources of contemporary racism and that human rights violations against members of such groups occur widely in the context of discriminatory, xenophobic and racist practices.

24. The Human Rights Committee, for its part, adopted general comment No. 31 (2004) on the nature of the general legal obligation imposed on States parties. The Committee stressed that the enjoyment of Covenant rights is not limited to citizens of States parties but must also be available to all individuals, regardless of nationality or whether they are stateless, such as asylum-seekers, refugees, migrant workers and other persons who may find themselves in the territory or subject to the jurisdiction of the State party. It observed that this principle also applies to those within the power or effective control of the forces of a State party acting outside its territory, regardless of the circumstances in which such power or effective control was obtained, such as forces constituting a national contingent of a State party assigned to an international peacekeeping or peace-enforcement operation. UNHCR has closely followed the work of the treaty bodies on general comments and recommendations and acknowledges the value of these two general comments in particular as important legal tools for supporting the international protection efforts of UNHCR.

25. During the reporting period, UNHCR and UNICEF shared their observations in relation to the preparation of a general comment on the administration of justice under consideration by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, raising issues of particular importance to child victims of mass exodus. Both agencies also closely cooperated with the same Committee in the preparation of its general comment No. 6 (2005) on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside of their country of origin, which will be of value in addressing the plight of such children, including those who are refugees. With such analytical frameworks and the contributions of other parts of the United Nations system, the human rights treaty bodies are well placed to enhance their ability to monitor and ensure the protection of persons in mass exodus and displacement.

26. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, as part of his mandate as a special procedure of the Commission on Human Rights, monitors the protection of internally displaced persons, specifically their human rights. He is called to cooperate and coordinate closely with

the rest of the United Nations system, in particular its human rights and humanitarian components. OHCHR, OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF have provided input and logistical support during his missions and have subsequently helped monitor implementation of his recommendations.

27. National human rights institutions also play an important role in promoting national responsibility and reinforcing protection of the rights of persons in mass exodus. Activities for the protection of human rights which such institutions can engage in include drawing attention to the human rights dimension of a crisis, monitoring protection concerns, investigating complaints, examining issues of return and property restitution, and highlighting the need for responses to be in conformity with human rights obligations. Given the regional repercussions of many situations of mass exodus and displacement, regional bodies also have an important role to play in protecting the human rights of persons caught up in such situations. The respective capacities and competencies of all such bodies must be integrated into a comprehensive response to a situation of mass exodus in order that prompt and complete relief may be provided.

IV. Human rights and mass exoduses: early warning mechanisms

28. Human rights are also at the core of efforts to avert new flows of refugees and other displaced persons. If history has proven, time and again, that mass exoduses are caused by violations of human rights, it is only natural to seek to address a deteriorating human rights situation early on to prevent the displacement of people. Specifically, experience has taught that situations of ingrained or systemic ethnic or racial discrimination have often been the precursor of armed conflict, even taking on a genocidal character, which gives rise to mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons. Early warning mechanisms that can aid in identifying these situations in advance are therefore vitally important in order to enable the appropriate measures to be taken.

29. In July 2004, the Secretary-General appointed Juan Méndez as his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, who will report through him to the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as to the Commission on Human Rights, thus strengthening the early warning capacity of the United Nations both for situations presenting a risk of genocide and the mass displacement of persons accompanying such situations.

30. Among the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, CERD has taken the lead in developing early warning measures enabling it to flag for wider attention situations where ethnic or racial discrimination is of such seriousness as to give rise to particularly grave concern and a need for preventive measures. The Committee, acting under its early warning and urgent action procedures, has brought to the attention of the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, a number of country situations where systematic violations of human rights and persistent patterns of racial discrimination could escalate into violent conflict and genocide.

V. Human rights of internally displaced persons

31. The internally displaced constitute a specific category of people affected by mass exodus. It is estimated that today approximately 25 million people in 52 countries are internally displaced owing to conflict alone. From 1992 to 2004, following a request by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1992/73, Francis Deng was appointed Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons. In his final report (E/CN.4/2004/77), the Representative drew on over a decade of experience to set out what he saw as the future challenges for the mandate. He detailed six "pillars" or areas of work developed with guidance from resolutions of the Commission and the General Assembly.

32. In 2004, the Special Representative concluded that the international community had come a long way in responding to the global crisis of internal displacement, from initially shying away from the issue as too sensitive on the grounds of national sovereignty, to developing normative and institutional responses, to engaging constructively on the principles and strategies for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, and now to facing the challenge of making these achievements more effective and comprehensive. A consensus emerging in the international community indicated a readiness to increase efforts to make a collaborative approach work that would ensure better protection and assistance to internally displaced persons worldwide. The Representative underscored that this required a strong commitment from all sides. The United Nations would need to demonstrate its capacity to improve the operational response, which, in turn, would depend on adequate financial support from donor countries as well as the political backing of all States. At the same time, it was important to continue to be aware of institutional weaknesses, and to be ready to address them and re-evaluate current approaches, should they prove ineffective.

33. In 2004, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2004/55, reoriented the mandate, giving it an explicit human rights focus. The Commission requested the Secretary-General, in effectively building upon the work of his Representative, to establish a mechanism that would address the complex problem of internal displacement, in particular by mainstreaming human rights of the internally displaced into all relevant parts of the United Nations system. It further recommended that this mechanism should work towards strengthening the international response to the complex problem of situations of internal displacement, and engage in coordinated international advocacy and action for improving protection and respect of the human rights of the internally displaced, while continuing and enhancing dialogues with Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors. As a result, in September 2004, Walter Kälin was appointed Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

34. Based upon the foundation established by his predecessor, the Representative has continued to engage in dialogue with States, having conducted official missions to Nepal, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as working visits to Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey. Country missions continue to be a particularly important aspect of the mandate, as they provide a means of assessing the extent to which the protection, assistance and development needs of the internally displaced are being met in specific situations. The missions also offer the

opportunity to engage in solution-oriented dialogue with the Governments and international and non-governmental organizations concerned.

35. The Representative has also been instrumental in making further progress in the ongoing study of the problem of internal displacement. The agenda for research and many other activities, such as national and regional workshops, are undertaken mainly by the Representative with the support of the joint Project on Internal Displacement of the Brookings Institution and the University of Berne. With both the overall dynamics and general structural issues of the global crisis of internal displacement having now been more fully studied, the research agenda of the mandate has focused on specific issues and policy recommendations, including strengthening the capacity of national actors to respond to internal displacement issues. In September 2005, the Project on Internal Displacement, in conjunction with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, sponsored an inaugural course entitled "The law of internal displacement" in San Remo, Italy, for policymakers and practitioners from around the world. The Project has also begun a process of drafting a guide for legislators on how effect may best be given to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

36. Within the United Nations system, the Representative has engaged in sustained advocacy for recognizing the human rights aspects of particular situations of displacement, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity to respond to the human rights issues raised by displacement. In particular, the Representative has participated in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). He has also met with senior officials of OHCHR, OCHA, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, among others, in order to sensitize these counterparts to the Representative's mandate and to explore areas of future collaboration.

37. In an effort to facilitate a more effective international response to the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, in July 2004 the Emergency Relief Coordinator established the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division within OCHA. Building on the work of its predecessor, the Internal Displacement Unit, the Division's primary purpose is to support national Governments, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, humanitarian and resident coordinators and United Nations agencies and other humanitarian and development actors in ensuring an effective, predictable and concerted response to crises of internal displacement. The Division has also been requested by the Coordinator to provide targeted support to specific country situations where the "collaborative response" to crises of internal displacement is not seen to be working well and where there are significant gaps in the response that need to be addressed.

38. An important element of the Division's work is promoting the implementation of the IASC Policy Package on the Implementation of the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement that was endorsed in September 2004. Its purpose is to provide humanitarian coordinators and United Nations country teams with the guidance and tools required to implement the collaborative response in a more effective, transparent and comprehensive manner. The Policy Package is composed of a guidance note that outlines the roles and responsibilities of different headquarters and field-based actors in responding to internal displacement and includes a procedural road map on the process of implementing the response. The

package also contains several annexes, notably a strategy checklist that provides guidance on how to formulate a displacement-specific action plan and on the different components to be reflected within the plan; an activities list that outlines the activities that different United Nations and non-United Nations actors might be able to undertake during a given phase of the displacement crisis; additional guidance on the nature and meaning of protection for internally displaced persons; and, finally, an overview of the support available to United Nations country teams from the Division, the Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Project and the Representative of the Secretary-General.

39. Following its endorsement, the Emergency Relief Coordinator sent the Policy Package to all humanitarian coordinators requesting that they convene a meeting of the country team to discuss the Policy Package and its implementation in their particular country. The Coordinator also shared the Policy Package with the IASC Principals and requested that they disseminate it within their respective organizations, both at headquarters and among their field staff. Agencies were also encouraged to ensure that key aspects of the Policy Package are incorporated into relevant policy documents, training materials and activities of their organizations. The Division has also begun a series of regional workshops on the Policy Package for OCHA heads of field office with a view to supporting humanitarian coordinators with its implementation. The Division will also directly promote and facilitate the implementation of the Policy Package at the field level, in particular with regard to its priority countries.

40. The Division has provided technical support to a number of countries, with a particular emphasis on coordination, protection and return issues. It has supported the integration of issues affecting the internally displaced into response action plans, protection strategies and return frameworks in Burundi, Liberia, the Sudan and Uganda. In Somalia, the Division promoted the development of an action plan for the assessment and profiling of the caseload of internally displaced persons in Somaliland. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support was provided to an assessment of protection issues and in outlining a return and reintegration strategy. Advisers on internally displaced persons were deployed to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Uganda and the Sudan to provide strategic advice to United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams.

41. However, it continues to be the case that there is no single organization within the United Nations system responsible for providing protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. To date, the so-called collaborative approach has been the preferred and only option of the United Nations. Nevertheless, efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the accountability of the system at the operational level, with the designation of lead agencies accountable for various sectors at a country level in any given situation of displacement to the humanitarian coordinator. The Representative has been particularly engaged in the discussions within the framework of IASC concerning the designation of an agency with a sectoral responsibility for the protection of displaced persons. Since June 2005, UNHCR has been engaged in the IASC process of closing sectoral capacity gaps in humanitarian response, with particular focus on internally displaced persons. UNHCR has also been revisiting its procedures and guidelines for involvement in IDP situations in order to respond to the needs of IDPs more effectively and predictably.

VI. Mass exoduses caused by natural disasters

42. The tsunamis of 26 December 2004 left in their wake more than 300,000 people killed, 500,000 injured and more than 1 million internally displaced across South and South-East Asia. Some countries hit by the tsunamis experienced the problem of internal displacement for the first time, while in others, the tsunamis struck areas of ongoing armed conflict and internal displacement, exacerbating pre-existing humanitarian crises and forcing many persons previously displaced by violence to flee once again, further compounding their plight. The tsunamis confronted the international community, including the United Nations and civil society in the humanitarian field, with a disaster of unprecedented proportions and inflicted within a very short period of time, which — in addition to the immense loss of life — caused displacement of people on an enormous scale. In the months after the disaster, human rights concerns emerged as primary issues requiring reflection and consideration in terms of the response to the disaster, as well as the steps necessary to avoid its repetition.

43. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, efforts focused on search and rescue, bringing clean water, food, clothing, medical care and shelter to survivors, and identifying and burying the vast number of dead. At the same time, important human rights protection issues also arose, including access to assistance, discrimination in the provision of aid, enforced relocation, sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment of children into fighting forces, loss of documentation, safe and voluntary return or resettlement, and issues of property restitution.

44. These concerns underscored that it is as important in the context of natural disasters as it is in situations of displacement caused by conflict to examine and address displacement using a human rights-based approach, for persons forced to leave their homes share many common types of vulnerability, regardless of the underlying reasons for their displacement. Such an approach is essential for a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response, and includes the application of international human rights norms and standards, in particular the right to participation, the right to a livelihood (covering, among other things, food, health and housing), and non-discrimination (against, among others, minorities, marginalized people, women and children).

45. Natural disasters present particular challenges for the fulfilment of national responsibility as regards protection in the context of displacement. Earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, tsunamis and other natural disasters are beyond the capacity of any State to prevent. However, States can and should seek to mitigate the damage from such phenomena, including by putting in place effective early warning systems. Indeed, as affirmed in the Hyogo Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, "States have the primary responsibility to protect the people and property on their territory from hazards and ... to give high priority to disaster risk reduction in national policy, consistent with their capacities and the resources available to them." Disaster risk reduction is not just a matter of good governance, but an issue of the fundamental rights of the populations at risk. As the Special Rapporteur on housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living has pointed out, the right to "habitable" housing implies that adequate provisions must be made in housing codes and then properly enforced to ensure that residences are prepared, to the extent possible, to withstand the effects of earthquake. Moreover, national law should

empower affected individuals to assert these rights, for example, through mechanisms to claim compensation where public officials have failed to take reasonable measures to protect populations and prevent displacement due to disasters.

46. Even when every reasonable precaution has been taken, not all displacement caused by natural disasters can be prevented. When they do occur, displaced persons have the right to request and to receive protection and assistance from national authorities, who, in turn, have the primary duty and responsibility to protect and assist populations within their jurisdiction in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Following a natural disaster, discrimination may arise in the distribution of humanitarian and reintegration assistance as well as in other aspects of the response, such as in decisions regarding relocation and resettlement. This risk is especially high when the affected areas have pre-existing patterns of discrimination or ethnic conflict. Assistance and other interventions in response to natural disasters must be undertaken in accordance with the principles of impartiality and neutrality, without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or caste. There is also a need to safeguard against discrimination between different groups of displaced persons, for instance, where assistance is provided to persons uprooted by a natural disaster but not to those displaced by conflict, or is provided only to displaced persons in camps or Government-run relocation centres while it is denied to those staying with host families who also are in need. Such inequities in aid distribution not only violate the principles of impartiality and non-discrimination, but also may create resentment and tensions between communities, which can complicate the rehabilitation and reintegration of displaced persons and threaten their security. Instead, opportunities should be seized to counter pre-existing patterns of discrimination by ensuring an inclusive response, and thereby promote national reconciliation.

47. Persons displaced from their homes by a natural phenomenon may find their movements subject to restrictions. Frequently, authorities direct such persons into temporary shelters or camps to house them, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and to ensure their security. Sometimes, however, this is done against the will of those affected, who may prefer to stay close to their homes to discourage looting, maintain their sources of employment, seek lost relatives, or simply find shelter and support elsewhere. States have a legitimate interest in devising expeditious ways of assisting and protecting victims; this interest must, however, be weighed against the affected persons' rights to personal liberty and to move freely within their own country, including the right to move freely in and out of camps and settlements.

48. Displaced women and children face a range of particular risks, and their needs require special attention. For example, they are more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, especially in camps, where the risks also include increased levels of domestic violence and child abuse. When food is not delivered directly to women and when they are excluded from camp management and the design of relief and reintegration plans, their vulnerability to sexual exploitation and abuse increases dramatically. Trafficking is a further serious risk that is heightened when people are displaced, families separated, children are orphaned and livelihoods are destroyed.

49. The family is the most basic unit of protection and a cornerstone of psychosocial support, particularly for children and the elderly. Family members who are separated by displacement therefore should be reunited as quickly as possible, with expedited measures taken whenever children are involved. Children and elderly persons who are separated from family members need to be registered so that tracing and reunification can be accomplished as soon as possible. In the interim, they need to be sheltered and cared for as well as protected against risks, including trafficking and military recruitment, particularly of the children. Further to the principle that all decisions concerning children should be guided by their best interests, when family reunification is not possible, even with an extended family member, foster care or other arrangements will need to be made to ensure the safety and well-being of children in the long term. Moreover, in the event of any relocation of displaced persons, families have the right to remain together.

VII. Conclusions

50. **The Secretary-General's reform proposals have highlighted the interdependence of human rights, poverty and development. To be fully understood, the phenomena of mass exodus and displacement must also be viewed within this framework. Recent examples of mass exodus, both as a result of armed conflict and as a consequence of massive natural disasters, have highlighted the need to address comprehensively the human rights of victims of mass exodus. Such persons have the right to protection from displacement, protection during displacement and protection after displacement. In addition, human rights issues are often at the core of the conflicts or other acts that give rise to mass exoduses. In this respect, patterns of discrimination and disadvantage, if unchecked, have the potential to develop into levels of violence that may reach genocidal proportions.**

51. **Over the last two years, substantial progress has been made in addressing these issues. The human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, linking closely with those parts of the United Nations system with humanitarian mandates, have worked to broaden their early warning mechanisms in order to identify patterns of disadvantage at an early stage when preventive remedial action is still possible. Within the United Nations system, the creation of an Internal Displacement Division in OCHA alongside the mandate of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons has advanced the Organization's institutional response to mass exoduses and internal displacement. With sustained attention to the capacity gaps and the measures needed to implement the Secretary-General's proposals for humanitarian reform, the United Nations is striving to avoid the creation of situations of mass exodus and, where this is not possible, to respond to the violations of these persons' human rights swiftly and appropriately.**

United Nations A/60/326

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 73 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Human rights and terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/195, summarizes the replies received to a note verbale sent by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights seeking the views of Member States on the implications of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations for the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on the possible establishment of a voluntary fund for the victims of terrorism, as well as on ways and means to rehabilitate the victims of terrorism and reintegrate them into society.

* A/60/150.
** This report was submitted late so as to include the most up-to-date information possible.

05-47879 (E) 120905

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/195, the General Assembly expressed its solidarity with the victims of terrorism and reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States, destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, undermining pluralistic civil society and having adverse consequences for the economic and social development of States. The Assembly called upon States to take all necessary and effective measures, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law, including international human rights standards, to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism; called upon States to strengthen, where appropriate, their legislation to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States on the implications of terrorism for the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on the possible establishment of a voluntary fund for the victims of terrorism, as well as on ways and means to rehabilitate the victims of terrorism and to reintegrate them into society.

2. The present report, submitted in accordance with resolution 59/195, summarizes the replies[1] received from the Governments that responded to a note verbale sent by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 27 May 2005.

II. Replies from Governments

Iraq

[18 July 2005]
[Original: Arabic]

The Government of Iraq is of the opinion that efforts to enhance effective international cooperation in the fight against terrorism must be deployed in the framework of international law and in the light of the obligations of States to uphold human rights principles and international humanitarian law. Iraq rejects the identification of terrorism with any religion, nationality or culture and is of the view that all religions and nationalities must be protected from violations committed on the pretext of combating terrorism. Protection of human rights in the context of counter-terrorism measures also means providing fundamental safeguards such as the independence of judges and the access to a fair trial. With regard to the victims of terrorism, the Government of Iraq supports the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international voluntary fund for victims of terrorism and suggests to involve civil society organizations and all humanitarian organizations in a global programme for the rehabilitation of victims of terrorism.

[1] The full text of the replies received are available for consultation in the Secretariat.

Ireland

[21 July 2005]
[Original: English]

The Government of Ireland stated its belief that in order to receive the widest possible support and to be successful in the long term, the fight against terrorism must be conducted in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Fostering human rights should become an integral part of the fight against terrorism. The causes of terrorism must also be understood and addressed as this is an essential step in its elimination. Combating terrorism must not be used as a pretext to suppress freedom of the press and specifically not as a justification for attacks on individual journalists. Ireland attaches great importance to the work performed by human rights defenders who have become increasingly effective in ensuring greater protection to victims of human rights violations. They also should not be inhibited in their work on the pretext of combating terrorism. The possible establishment of a voluntary fund for the victims of terrorism, as well as on ways and means to rehabilitate the victims of terrorism and to reintegrate them into society, are issues that would require further reflection. It may be that such issues are best dealt with at the national level.

Lithuania

[8 August 2005]
[Original: English]

The Government of Lithuania understands the potential risk of international terrorism and believes that collective efforts to prevent terrorism minimize the possibility of terrorist attacks. Therefore, Lithuania actively cooperates with other States and international organizations and provides assistance in the prevention of terrorism. The Government is of the opinion that in the struggle against terrorism, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected. In Lithuania, terrorism is condemned by law and defined as a criminal offence; however, the law does not provide for an explicit legal definition of "terrorist offence". According to the Criminal Code, two groups of crimes can be distinguished: (i) offences such as an act of terror, the provocation of terrorism, hijacking an aircraft or ship and taking hostages that are closely related to terrorism and thus should be considered as terrorist offences in all cases; and (ii) some terrorist crimes falling under the definition of ordinary offences, as, for instance, homicide, and crimes related to firearms and explosives. Only a court can make the determination of whether crimes in the latter group are related to terrorism or not. Article 7 of the Criminal Code on "Criminal liability for crimes specified in international agreements" states that persons who commit crimes abroad shall be criminally liable under the criminal statutes of the Republic of Lithuania. Regarding compensation of victims, Lithuania signed the 1983 European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes on 14 January 2004. The 1 July 2005 law on compensation for damage inflicted by violent crimes will also implement European Council Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation of crime victims. The European Union Framework Decision of 15 March 2001 on the status of victims in criminal proceedings is implemented mainly through the Code of Criminal Procedure of Lithuania. In criminal proceedings, the death penalty cannot

be applied in accordance with Protocols Nos. 6 and 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Lithuania is a party. The Government recognizes that torture is prohibited and that suspects have the right to a fair trial. It is of the view that it is necessary to strike a fair balance between respect for the rights of the individual and protection of the democratic society, including respect for privacy in the fight against terrorism. The Law on the Compensation of Damage Inflicted by Violent Crimes, which entered into force on 14 July 2005, establishes a Crime Victims' Fund and regulates cooperation with other European Union member States. The Republic of Lithuania does not have a single or special law providing for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of terrorist acts.

Mexico

[20 July 2005]
[Original: Spanish]

The Government of Mexico reported on ongoing actions by the Ministry of National Defence, and in this context stated that it has circulated to the various regional commanders the international rules relating to protection of human rights in efforts to combat terrorism, as contained in the report drawn up by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and approved on 22 October 2002 at the 116th regular session of the Commission. This was done in order to provide the various regional commanders with guidelines for their activities in this field, which relate to specific aspects such as the identification and application of international legal obligations, including the right to life, liberty, personal safety, humane treatment, freedom of expression, due process and a fair trial, the obligation to ensure and respect non-discrimination, the right to the protection of the law, and the situation of migrant workers, asylum-seekers, refugees and other non-Mexicans. Mexico also indicated that the Ministry of National Defence has been implementing within the armed forces a programme for the promotion and strengthening of human rights, whose aims include spreading and boosting a spirit of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law among military personnel, and promoting compliance with the international commitments entered into by Mexico in this area so as to achieve their full realization, in a context of complete respect for the rule of law.

Syrian Arab Republic

[8 June 2005]
[Original: English]

The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal acts violating the sovereignty and security of States. Syria stressed its cooperation with the international community in implementing its resolutions on combating international terrorism. While Syria has no difficulties with the substance of resolution 59/195, it reaffirms its principled position on the importance of convening an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to define terrorism and differentiate between the criminal acts of terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination and against foreign occupation.

Turkey

[20 July 2005]
[Original: English]

Turkey reported that terrorism is an act of violence aimed at eradicating basic human rights while threatening public order, security, and the territorial integrity of States. The perception that human rights can only be violated by States is not in conformity with article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; terrorists also violate human rights, including the right to life. Terrorism not only impacts negatively on human rights but on the economic and social development of countries. Turkey believes that States should take individual and collective measures to prevent and eliminate terrorism. The events of 11 September showed that no State is immune from terrorism. Further emphasis should be placed on the responsibility of States supporting terrorism directly or indirectly, and Turkey recalls the obligation of States to deny safe haven and immunity to terrorists. Associating terrorism with any particular religion, religious belief, tradition or national culture is unacceptable. Turkey believes that regional and international cooperation to combat terrorism is fundamental. It has been contributing to codification efforts in this field and is party to all 12 United Nations basic international conventions against terrorism. Turkey in principle supports the establishment of a voluntary fund for the victims of terrorism and offers the following issues for further analysis in the process leading to setting up such a fund: (i) the beneficiaries of the fund would be victims of terrorism. The absence of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism and the existence of different approaches to the identification of terrorist organizations can lead to difficulties in deciding who would fall under the category of "the victims of terrorism" in some cases; (ii) in the course of the functioning of the fund, relevant national authorities should be accorded an appropriate role in the application and investigation process. Compensation should also be channelled through relevant national bodies and they should play a role in steps to be taken to reintegrate victims in society; (iii) the question of degree of injury and/or damage would need to be considered in the distribution of resources. On the question of rehabilitation of victims of terrorism and their reintegration into society, two laws in Turkey are relevant, specifically, the Anti-Terror Law (Act No. 3713) and the Law on the Compensation of Losses Resulting from Terrorist Acts and the Measures Taken against Terrorism.

Ukraine

[4 August 2005]
[Original: Russian]

The Government of Ukraine stated that the problem of combating terrorism has been assigned the highest priority for all State institutions and bodies. Ukraine has aimed at bringing domestic legislation into conformity with international law in its efforts to combat terrorism, notably by the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of the new Criminal Code, notably article 258 on "Terrorist acts", and a special Anti-Terrorism Act. In addition, a programme of anti-terrorist measures for the period 2005-2007 was approved by presidential decree. The adoption of the Anti-Terrorism Act was accompanied by the introduction of changes to the Security Service Act, the Police Investigations Act and the State Border Service Act, as well

as the Code of Criminal Procedure, which enhance the effectiveness of anti-terrorist activity while guaranteeing respect for civil rights in the context of such activity. The Anti-Terrorism Act, in particular, defines basic terms and their meanings, including terrorism, terrorist act, technological terrorism, terrorist activity, international terrorism, terrorist, terrorist group, terrorist organization, anti-terrorism, anti-terrorist operation and hostage. Ukraine noted that article 29 of the Anti-Terrorism Act provides legislative support for the extradition of persons who have participated in terrorist activities. The extradition of foreigners or stateless persons for the purposes of criminal prosecution and the imposition of coercive measures by a foreign State is carried out in accordance with the law and the obligations assumed by Ukraine under the 1957 European Convention on Extradition, the 1977 European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and other international treaties containing obligations to which the Verkhovna Rada has subscribed, as well as on a reciprocal basis. As the compensation of victims of terrorism is regulated by the Anti-Terrorist Act (arts. 19 and 20) and is paid from the State budget in accordance with the law, Ukraine considers it unnecessary to set up an additional fund to compensate individuals and corporate bodies that have suffered as a result of a terrorist act. Ukraine supports, at the very most, the setting up of such funds in other States in cases where there is no domestic legislation on the subject. The social rehabilitation of victims of terrorism is carried out for the purpose of ensuring their return to normal life and is also funded under the State budget. Ukraine also indicated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, within its sphere of competence, is taking a number of steps to prevent manifestations of terrorism while ensuring unconditional respect for human rights and denying safe haven to terrorists.

United Nations A/60/327

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 124 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). Information is provided on the outcome of the fifteenth and sixteenth funding cycles that took place in 2004, progress in each programme area, and a review of UNFIP activities in advocacy and partnership-building. The present report supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173 and A/59/170).

Member States will note that a total of $76.8 million was programmed for 2004. Broken down by programme area, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $46.5 million for 12 projects (of which four new); population and women, $3.5 million for six projects (of which four new); environment, $22.6 million for thirteen projects; peace, security and human rights, $2.3 million for nine projects (of which seven new), and $2 million for seven projects (of which four new) outside the four thematic areas. Since the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998, a total of $639 million has been programmed.

* A/60/150.

05-47891 (E) 290905

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I. Introduction

1. In 2004, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) continued to manage the partnership with the United Nations Foundation in connection with Robert E. (Ted) Turner's contribution in support of United Nations causes. In that capacity, UNFIP collaborated with the United Nations system to identify innovative, high-impact projects consistent with the programme frameworks for children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights. Projects and activities were identified in conformity with the Foundation's strategic objectives, taking into account the goals and objectives of the Millennium Declaration and relative development goals. Those projects and activities were implemented on the basis of guidelines issued by the United Nations Development Group and in line with the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Since the inception of the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP partnership in 1998, a total of $639 million (inclusive of co-financing) had been allocated to fund 324 projects with activities in 122 countries involving 37 United Nations organizations. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners was $237 million, or 37 per cent of all approved grants. In addition, parallel funding provided for the same programmes and projects amounted to $265 million.

2. As in previous years, UNFIP was responsible for providing technical assistance to the international private sector and foundations in developing partnership opportunities within the United Nations common system. In keeping with the Secretary-General's commitment to facilitating and coordinating collective action on shared principles and priorities, UNFIP focused efforts on the creation of networking and resource mobilization opportunities with a broad range of actors, including bilateral partners. As of the end of December 2004, UNFIP had fielded nearly 300 substantial enquiries about partnership with the United Nations system from a wide range of organizations, networks, coalitions and individuals.

II. Programme

3. A detailed review is set out below of developments during the year in programmes and projects being implemented with the support of the United Nations Foundation under the four programme frameworks: children's health; population and women; environment; and peace, security and human rights. In addition to these activities, the United Nations Foundation also supported a number of discrete strategic initiatives.

A. Children's health

4. The children's health portfolio comprises 57 projects, valued at $289 million, and covers the following areas: polio eradication; preventing tobacco use; decreasing child mortality through prevention of HIV/AIDS; delivering micronutrients and improving and sustaining vaccine delivery; and strengthening community health knowledge and practices. In addition, support has been provided for the eradication of the Guinea worm and communicable diseases, and for arsenic mitigation.

5. The main areas of support in the children's health portfolio concern measles control and polio eradication. Programme activities take a preventative approach to children's health and seek to ensure that interventions funded by the United Nations Foundation contribute to strengthening public health infrastructure and build capacity for service delivery and surveillance in developing countries. Measles control is a cost-effective investment in disease prevention that is measurable, replicable and realistic. The activities can be readily adapted to scale and the demand for vaccination is very high. The annual number of deaths from measles has plummeted by 39 per cent, from 873,000 in 1999 to an estimated 530,000 in 2003 (the most recent year for which measles mortality data are available). The largest reduction was seen in Africa, the region where the burden of the disease is greatest.

6. Launched in 2001, the Measles Initiative in Africa is a partnership comprising the American Red Cross, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO). The initiative has allowed the vaccination of more than 160 million children in 33 countries in Africa, preventing an estimated 300,000 deaths and reaching at least 90 per cent of the target population. The partnership works closely with Governments of African countries affected by measles, as well as with local communities and partners to make sure that all children at risk are provided with free measles vaccinations and other appropriate health interventions. In 2004, the partnership also funded measles campaigns supported by UNICEF and WHO in Nepal and northern Sudan.

7. Phase VII of the Strengthening Immunization Services Through Measles Control in Africa is a joint UNICEF and WHO project that will support measles campaigns in at least 14 countries in Africa, reaching over 33 million children. Activities include provision of vaccines, syringes and other supplies, as well as technical and financial support for microplanning, training and social mobilization. The project is funded by the World Bank, Rotary International and individual donations.

8. In 2004, the UNFIP and United Nations Foundation boards also agreed to extend and expand the Measles Initiative in Africa to support the work of WHO and UNICEF through 2009. The extension will promote sustainability by reducing the disease burden to near zero, enabling countries with limited resources to sustain the gains achieved through routine immunization services. The United Nations Foundation agreed to provide $5 million for each $10 million from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization over a five-year period beginning in 2005. In July 2004, the Alliance board approved $37 million for the Africa Measles Partnership for the programme period ending in 2009.

9. The Polio Eradication Initiative is the largest international public health effort to date. A total of $91 million has been approved for the Initiative since 1999. By the end of 2004, polio had been eradicated from all but six countries: Afghanistan, Egypt, India, the Niger, Nigeria and Pakistan. Progress was achieved largely by improved surveillance systems and by training health workers to report new cases of polio immediately. This increased capacity will be applied to other major communicable diseases. The Polio Advocacy Group of the Initiative comprises resource mobilization focal points from the United Nations Foundation, Rotary International, WHO and UNICEF.

10. Polio transmission has returned to six countries: Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and the Sudan. The total number of previously polio-free countries to suffer importations following the 2003-2004 outbreak in West Africa has risen to 14. Such outbreaks are a reminder of the global vulnerability to polio as long as the virus exists. It is imperative that all polio-free countries maintain high population-immunity levels and efficient disease surveillance. Importations are not uncommon during eradication efforts.

11. In 2004, a grant was approved to provide long-lasting bed nets to children under 5 years for distribution during the measles campaigns in Chad and Equatorial Guinea. Funds were also provided to strengthen immunization activities in the Dominican Republic.

12. The children's health portfolio is also contributing to global action against malaria. Malaria is a "silent tsunami" that kills more than 150,000 people every month (almost 2 million each year) and causes more than 300 million episodes of malarial illness in over 100 countries. It particularly affects the most vulnerable: children of 5 years of age and under, who account for more than 90 per cent of all deaths from malaria; pregnant women; and people infected with HIV/AIDS. Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds in Africa. Malaria is also responsible for 10,000 maternal deaths annually, 10 per cent of low birth weight and 5 per cent of stillbirths in malaria-endemic countries.

B. Women and population

13. A total of $3.5 million was approved for projects in the women and population portfolio in 2004, bringing the total value of the portfolio to $129.4 million as of 31 December 2004. The portfolio comprises 84 projects implemented by 14 United Nations agencies; 51 of those projects have been completed, while 33 are ongoing. The main portfolio partners are the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Other UNFIP partners in the women and population portfolio include the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Major donor partners include the United States Agency for International Development, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Netherlands Government and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

14. In 2004, the women and population portfolio continued to support efforts to reduce poverty, promote gender equality and improve the quality of life for adolescent girls and women. Projects and activities funded in that area include efforts supported by the United Nations to establish comprehensive national plans aimed at developing the capacities of women and girls to participate in the social, economic and political development of their countries and communities.

15. Projects approved in 2004 focused on promoting the participation rights of adolescent girls, supporting policy advocacy relating to reproductive health, improving the quality of reproductive health care and strengthening the capacity of

the United Nations to ensure a steady supply of essential reproductive health supplies to developing countries worldwide.

16. The United Nations Fund is supporting a wide range of advocacy activities to mobilize commitment and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Funding is provided for UNFPA advocacy and communication work with national and regional media, parliamentary organizations and intergovernmental constituencies. The funding also supports the mission and mandate of UNFPA to galvanize broad-based political commitment and mobilize financial support for population and reproductive health activities worldwide.

17. Reliable access to contraceptives and other commodities, such as condoms, HIV/AIDS test kits and equipment for emergency obstetric care, is a fundamental requirement for reproductive health. Without such commodities, millions of women around the world remain vulnerable to unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS) and the risks of childbirth. A project devised to strengthen UNFPA capacity to implement the Global Strategy for Reproductive Health Commodity Security seeks to improve the situation by supporting UNFPA in its role as the largest international public sector supplier of commodities.

18. Improving the quality of reproductive health care requires improving the quality of services, making them safe, effective, affordable and responsive to the needs of clients. Building on previous projects to improve the quality of reproductive health care in India, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Nepal, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania, the project entitled "Stronger voices for reproductive health — improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care in Nepal" is aimed at improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care provided to women, men and young people by (a) supporting community mobilization efforts to raise awareness of reproductive rights and demand quality services from the health system; (b) working with providers to strengthen service delivery in response to communities' reproductive rights and needs; and (c) fostering linkages and partnerships between community groups and the health system to arrive at jointly-defined care quality standards.

C. Environment

19. The two principal funding priorities in the environment area are (a) biodiversity and (b) sustainable energy and climate change. The overall environment portfolio since 1998 is valued at $157 million, including $75.5 million for biodiversity activities, $53.9 million in support of sustainable energy and climate change efforts, and $27.7 million for related environment projects. The total amount programmed in 2004 was $22.6 million for 13 projects.

1. Biodiversity

20. The biodiversity programme strategy is based on the recognition that productive and healthy ecosystems and the species they support are fundamental to human well-being and survival. In the wider context, the biodiversity programme strategy is primarily aimed at assisting developing countries to promote effective action for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by targeting protected areas designated as World Heritage natural sites. Collective action in that field is

guided by the provisions of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 1972) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

21. There are three reasons for focusing on World Heritage sites. First, the areas are recognized as hosting some of the most important habitats for biodiversity conservation in the world, and are places of outstanding universal value for whose protection it is the duty of the international community to cooperate. Second, the World Heritage Convention provides a high-profile platform, at both the national and the international level, for raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and habitat protection, and requires States parties to the Convention to maintain the integrity of the listed sites. Third, World Heritage sites and their surrounding landscapes offer opportunities to demonstrate effective approaches for linking the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to local economic development and poverty alleviation.

22. The Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation programme led by UNDP is designed to promote the long-term sustainability of World Heritage sites by supporting community-based conservation and development on a landscape scale. Funding provided by the United Nations Fund and UNFIP for the second phase of the programme, to begin in 2005, will build on the achievements and momentum established during the initial phase (2000-2004) by further promoting environmental awareness and alternative livelihoods for local communities living around six World Heritage sites in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mexico, Dominica, Belize, the Philippines and Senegal. The programme is managed and implemented by the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility under the auspices of UNDP.

23. Over the last four years, phase one of the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation programme provided over 150 small grants, ranging from $5,000 to $50,000, to support community-based projects and enterprises that contributed both to the conservation of the targeted World Heritage sites and local development. The range of products and services provided by the local enterprises supported under the programme include organic honey, certified timber, non-timber forest products and ecotourism. The programme also gives assistance to local communities of the targeted World Heritage sites in vital sustainable fisheries management, high-value organic farming, water management strategies to restore watersheds, and access to renewable energy to reduce pressure on forest resources.

24. World Heritage sites in India — Kaziranga, Keoladeo Ghana, Manas, Nanda Devi and Sundarbans — are home to many unique animals in danger of extinction. The World Heritage programme in India is supported through a partnership involving UNESCO, the Indian Government, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment. The programme is aimed at conserving the sites through a number of actions in partnership with local communities to encourage a more sustainable approach in the utilization of the natural resources of the parks and buffer zones. Education and the identification of alternative livelihood options are a key factor in this approach, which is aimed at introducing more appropriate management and law enforcement training for park managers and rangers. The endeavour also contributes to efforts to curb the poaching of wildlife and to improve the overall ecological integrity of India's World Heritage sites. The programme is co-financed by the American India Foundation,

the Suri Sehgal Foundation, the Sir Rattan Tata Trust, the Ford Foundation and the Walt Disney Conservation Fund.

25. In furthering the goal of encouraging partnerships to attain the Millennium Development Goals, a grant to UNESCO is intended to build on the existing collaboration between the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Government of Indonesia and the private sector to support the Conservation Action Network Program. The initiative promotes the conservation of Sumatra's unique biodiversity, through focuses on the Bukit Barisan, Gunung Leuser and Kerinci Sablat protected areas. Objectives and activities include regional planning, promoting the development of a comprehensive plan for mitigating illegal natural resource exploitation, and introducing sustainable agricultural practices in local villages.

26. Markets for products and services derived from biodiversity are growing, offering opportunities for income-generating activities based on its sustainable use. To stimulate trade and investment in the biological resources of the Andean and Amazon regions, the BioTrade initiative provides practical trade-promotion services to local enterprises, such as market assessment, product development and quality control, as well as certification and labelling schemes.

2. Sustainable energy and climate change

27. The goal of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Programme is to contribute to sustainable development and the mitigation of climate change through the promotion of renewable energy and energy-efficiency markets. The programme is based on the understanding that the provision of affordable, modern energy services to the world's poor — by promoting sustainable economic development, mitigating climate change and enhancing energy security — is essential to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. In 2004, a grant to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was approved to leverage new sources of investment capital for energy efficiency and renewable energy in Eastern and Central Europe, with significant environmental, economic and social benefits. The project supports the establishment of a clean energy investment fund to be capitalized with public and private equity and managed by experienced fund managers from commercial financial institutions. It builds on the achievements of an earlier ECE project supported by the United Nations Fund to accelerate energy-efficiency market-formation activities in five countries through the promotion of energy efficiency investments in the municipal lighting, hospital and district heating sectors. Funding by the Foundation will be primarily used to identify and develop a pipeline of municipal energy-efficiency projects for potential investment through the clean energy fund.

29. The UNEP Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative was devised to catalyse strategic partnerships with financial institutions and promote increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, to create a better understanding of opportunities for sustainable energy investment, improve risk assessment and management and encourage public-private initiatives and alliances that share the costs and lower barriers to such investment. The project is modelled in part on the UNEP Finance Initiative as a convening platform to provide banks and other financial institutions with the tools and networks to promote financial innovation and scale up lending to the sustainable energy market.

30. The UNDP Footprint Neutral Programme is a voluntary market-based mechanism that will enable companies and consumers to take greater responsibility for the impact on the environment of their businesses. The United Nations Fund supports the objective of the programme to facilitate private sector investments in complementary environmental projects aimed at reducing the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. This is an innovative approach to building partnerships with commercial companies when addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

D. Peace, security and human rights

31. The peace, security and human rights portfolio has focused primarily on funding United Nations-supported programmes for the protection of women and children in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, the strengthening of good governance and the rule of law, and the promotion of human rights. A total of $2.25 million was approved in 2004 for seven new and two ongoing projects, bringing the total value of this portfolio to $47.8 million as of 31 December 2004.

32. In the area of human rights, the United Nations Fund increased support for activities related to the engagement of civil society in the promotion of human rights. Funds were provided for the establishment of South-South networks of human rights groups, legal experts, academics and non-governmental institutions, in order to improve knowledge-sharing and exchange of information among countries in Latin America and Africa. A human rights infrastructure, in particular offering pro bono activities and human rights clinics, was set up to expand and sustain access to justice, increase the impact of legal approaches to the enforcement of human rights and strengthen the action of human rights actors in a number of developing countries.

33. In the area of good governance and the rule of law, the United Nations Fund provided seed money for a project to strengthen the rule of law, increase access to justice and enhance citizen security by modernizing prosecutors' offices in Jordan, Morocco and Yemen. The initiative drew significant contributions from Member States, making the project one of the most important initiatives in the peace, security and human rights portfolio.

34. In 2004, UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs initiated a project to strengthen national capacities for participatory constitution-making processes. Ensuring authentic participation of civil society and national leaders in the drafting of constitutions is an important step in nation- and peacebuilding. The project supports the development of a policy framework and creates a how-to knowledge base for strengthening national capacities in selected countries.

35. In addition to those activities, the portfolio addresses the issues of natural resource management and conflict. Many countries that experience a sudden increase in revenue deriving from the exploitation of natural resources may also experience a period of social and political tension or conflict related to management of those benefits. The United Nations Fund has funded a United Nations-supported project in Sao Tome and Principe to build the capacity of the Government to manage oil revenues in a way that is conducive to the overall development of the country. One particular focus of the project is the engagement of civil society in the establishment of a transparent decision-making mechanism for fund investment. A

second grant in this area was provided to conduct a comprehensive survey of the economic management practices of resource-rich States, with a focus on lessons learned in countries that have successfully transformed income from natural resources into sustained social and economic development.

36. The UNDP initiative on regional cooperation for human security in Central Asia was funded to support Governments in generating and enhancing cross-border dialogue and cooperation in five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project is aimed at raising public awareness of the benefits of regional cooperation and fostering public dialogue on the issue.

E. Strategic Initiatives

37. The United Nations Fund supported four projects and activities consistent with other priorities of the Secretary-General totalling $2 million in 2004, bringing the total value of that portfolio to $15.6 million as of 31 December 2004. The relative grants supported activities in capacity-building, microcredit and the UNDP Awards for Human Development.

38. In the area of capacity-building, the United Nations Fund and the Smithsonian Institution have become partners to support a training model for developing country practitioners on how to design and implement projects to help achieve the goals and objectives of the Millennium Declaration and its specific targets. Training activities were conducted during global conferences and attracted a large, diverse group of trainees in a cost-effective manner.

39. In the light of the importance of microcredit in eradicating poverty, in 2004, the United Nations Fund provided funding for the International Year of Microcredit 2005. The grant was used by the United Nations to raise awareness, enhance existing microfinance programmes and contribute to the attainment of the poverty-reduction targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

40. The United Nations Fund continued its support in 2004 for the UNDP Awards for Human Development. The biennial awards programme gives incentives for quality and innovation in national human development reports and honours Government efforts to promote human development policies. Human development reports are a key mechanism for local-level policy analysis and advocacy. They are also are an increasingly important means for UNDP to enhance the quality of its policy advisory services.

F. Monitoring and evaluation

41. At the end of 2004, the United Nations Fund and UNFIP commenced preparation for revised programme guidelines, including the monitoring and evaluation strategy, which is to be completed in 2005. The revised guidelines will ensure that monitoring and evaluation activities are fully incorporated into each new project and activity. The funding for monitoring and evaluation will improve the outcomes of mid-term and final project and activity evaluation and ensure that final recommendations for mainstreaming future programmes are knowledge-based.

42. In 2004, 31 projects were completed and final reports are being assessed, and 212 ongoing projects submitted their annual progress reports, which are being analysed. The periodic tracking of implementation rates was based on financial reports; programme feedback to partners was provided by UNFIP. Field visits were undertaken as required by programme officers in collaboration with partner agencies for assessment of ongoing activities and technical guidance. The reporting and monitoring methodology involves portfolio reviews with major implementing partners and regular communication with United Nations Fund grant managers and UNFIP programme officers.

III. Facilitating partnerships

43. The growing interest from the private sector and foundations in the work of the United Nations has led to a substantial increase in requests for partnerships with the United Nations system. A number of such requests have culminated in partnership initiatives. UNFIP facilitated a partnership among the producers of the film *Hotel Rwanda*, the United Nations Fund and UNDP, and helped to establish the International Fund for Rwanda, into which profits from the film and entertainment industry were channelled to assist in that country's recovery and reconciliation.

44. New and innovative alliances were established with a number of institutions, foundations and corporations, including Healing the Divide, the Universal Education Foundation, the Virtue Foundation, HP Labs India, the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative, Kino fur Morgen and the International Council for Caring Communities. In addition, ongoing collaboration initiatives, such as with the Citigroup Private Bank and the Citigroup Foundation, the Committee to Encourage Corporate Philanthropy, the Education Development Centre, the European Foundations Centre, Microsoft, the United States Chamber of Commerce and Vodafone, were strengthened.

45. In May 2004, UNFIP, in association with the United Nations Fund, organized and convened in Bonn, Germany, a knowledge-management workshop in parallel with the International Conference on Renewable Energies. The workshops recommended, inter alia, a scale-up of Government commitment and leadership in addition to foreign assistance, which would include engaging local financial institutions from the outset in all such initiatives, as well as supporting and expanding recognized successful models.

46. In early 2004, UNFIP assumed responsibility from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for providing support to Adolf Ogi, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, particularly with regard to his activities in promoting field-level projects using sport as a programme tool and involving United Nations funds, programmes and agencies with partners from the world of sport. During the year, UNFIP advised on United Nations partnership and encouraged foundations, the private sector, civil society and Governments, as well as sport organizations and associations, to get involved in the promotion of sport to achieve development and peace. UNFP senior management engaged in numerous conferences and panel discussions on the role of sport for development and peace. UNFIP also provided administrative support to the United Nations Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005, of which it co-organized the launch. It assisted a number of sports associations and sport-related efforts, such

as Diversity for Peace, Commonwealth Games Canada, Homeless World Cup, Play Soccer, and Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung.

47. In May 2004, at the fifteenth Annual Conference of the European Foundation Centre, UNFIP hosted three sessions addressing United Nations issues: sport for development, Millennium Development Goals, and UNESCO World Heritage sites. In addition, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette gave a keynote address at that Conference. As a follow-up, in December 2004, UNFIP organized a visit to Headquarters for 13 leading members of the International Committee of the European Foundation Centre, to explore closer collaboration with the United Nations. The visit provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between key United Nations officials and major European foundations. Similarly, in collaboration with the Education for Development Centre, UNFIP organized the launch of the International Power Users of Technology Initiative at a summit which brought together leaders from the industrial, education and research communities, to discuss the influence of youth and technology on trends in the global information society.

IV. Advocacy and public affairs

48. Working closely with the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Fund and its partner organization the Better World Fund, UNFIP continued its advocacy and public affairs efforts throughout 2004, focusing on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

49. In that regard, UNFIP continued its support for the Millennium Campaign by connecting outside partners with the Millennium Campaign Office and routinely suggesting ways that organizations can use one or more of the goals as a framework for activities. UNFIP also works with key umbrella organizations to encourage them to focus on the Millennium Development Goals in their work.

50. In 2004, UNFIP facilitated the publication of articles and speeches by both United Nations staff and outsiders on issues relating to partnerships with the United Nations. Articles have appeared in *Agenda Publishing*, *Alliance Magazine*, *Natural Resources Forum*, *New Century Philanthropy* and the *United Nations Chronicle*. In spring 2004, UNFIP issued its first newsletter, which was distributed to over 1,000 potential partners to inform them about the possibilities of working with the United Nations.

51. In addition, UNFIP continued its close relations with the Better World Fund, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the World Federation of United Nations Associations in outreach efforts to the public; redesigned its website to make it more accessible to users in all regions of the world; produced new outreach material; and continued to compile a database of companies and foundations that have expressed interest in partnerships with the United Nations. The Executive Director also spoke at a number of academic events, philanthropic conferences and gatherings of non-governmental organizations, to promote partnering with the United Nations.

V. Funding rounds

52. The cumulative value of the projects approved between 1998 and 2004 by the United Nations Fund on the recommendation of the UNFIP Advisory Board amounted to $639 million, which has been allocated to fund 324 projects with activities involving 37 United Nations organizations in over 121 countries. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners amounts to $237 million, or more than one third of the total.

53. With the recommendation of the UNFIP Advisory Board, the United Nations Fund Board of Directors approved funding at the level of $76.8 million during 2004, of which $11.4 million was approved in the fifteenth funding cycle and $44.3 million in the sixteenth funding cycle; a further $21.1 million was approved between Board sessions. Broken down by programme area, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $46.5 million for four new and eight ongoing projects; population and women, $3.5 million for four new and two ongoing projects; environment, $22.6 million for 13 new projects; peace, security and human rights, $2.23 million for seven new and two ongoing projects; and $2 million for four new and three ongoing projects under strategic initiatives.

VI. Operational and financial arrangements

54. As the administrative vehicle in the United Nations to support grant-making by the United Nations Fund, UNFIP is responsible for approving project documents submitted by United Nations implementing partners, requesting annual contributions for projects from the United Nations Foundation and making cash remittances to the implementing partners. A total of $77.8 million in cash contributions from the Foundation was channelled to implementing partners during the year. Though project requirements are approved to be paid upon request, cash requirements are transferred to implementing partners annually, and only on a demonstrated need basis. In addition, cash replenishments are approved only when project reporting is up to date.

55. UNFIP undertakes its mission and fulfils its mandate in a cost-effective manner. In 2004, administrative improvements were introduced to manage an increasing workload with existing administrative and technical resources, while audit observations were implemented in a timely manner.

56. In consultation with implementing partners, UNFIP has embarked on a results-based approach to project development and performance reporting. Further consultations are planned for 2005 to determine strategy and implementation plans for the next biennium. Results-based budgeting and performance reports are also a fixed feature of the UNFIP administrative budget; those reports are submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgeting Questions for review and concurrence.

VII. Conclusions

57. Now in its seventh year, the United Nations Fund/UNFIP partnership has had a significant impact on the United Nations system at both the policy and operational

levels. Having undertaken close collaboration more complex and pioneering roles, as illustrated in the present report, both organizations have taken important strides by: (a) supporting activities led by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes relating to the Millennium Declaration and its development goals; (b) bringing to United Nations development activities the participation of private sector foundations, civil society and national institutions; (c) putting in place unique policy advocacy activities, which have raised public awareness and strengthened the understanding of United Nations programmes and activities; and (d) enhancing prospects for partnership with outside entities.

58. Ted Turner's visionary support of United Nations causes has been a clear demonstration of how public-private partnerships can have a major impact on international development. The Foundation's extrabudgetary contributions have created opportunities for innovative programming and new ways of alliance-building. Thanks to UNF challenge grants, new partners have come forward to collaborate with the United Nations system in support of collective global action.

59. Designed as the operational arm of the Secretary-General in its partnership with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP has over the past seven years developed the capacity to mobilize and coordinate relations among a broad range of public, private and intergovernmental bodies to ensure a coherent response to the opportunities and challenges of the new millennium. With the unprecedented response to the global commitments of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals from the private sector and civil society leaders all over the world, the Office of the Secretary-General will be increasingly accountable for facilitating their engagement and that of other constituencies. UNFIP remains committed to playing a vital role in international partnerships under the direct supervision of the Deputy Secretary-General.

Annex I

Composition of the 2004 United Nations Fund for International Partnerships Advisory Board

2004 Advisory Board

Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General

Lincoln C. Chen, Global Equity Initiative

Catherine Bertini, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Marjatta Rasi, President of the Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations)

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations)

Mary Oakes Smith, Fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, the World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, TFF Study Group (former President of the Ford Foundation)

Amir A. Dossal, Executive Director, UNFIP (member, ex officio)

Annex II

Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation, by programme area

	As at 31 December 2003		*Approvals in 2004*		*Total*		*Contributed by:*		
Programme Area	*Number of Projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Other donors*	*United Nations Foundation*	*Parallel donors*
Children's Health	53	242 455 952	4	46 508 072	57	288 964 024	164 906 616	124 057 408	46 424 101
Population and women	80	125 902 307	4	3 490 100	84	129 392 407	14 489 462	114 902 945	22 038 737
Environment	93	134 450 034	13	22 613 612	106	157 063 646	45 087 000	111 976 646	171 444 858
Peace, security and human rights	46	45 596 500	7	2 248 483	53	47 844 983	13 163 483	34 681 500	20 245 750
Other	20	13 681 656	4	1 961 935	24	15 643 591	1 351 135	14 292 456	4 977 965
Total	**292**	**562 086 449**	**32**	**76 822 202**	**324**	**638 908 651**	**238 997 696**	**399 910 955**	**265 131 411**